Demand of racks for Chhattisgarh

†2071. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Chhattisgarh has demanded racks on B' priority for providing iodized Amrit' Salt regularly to the poor people;

(b). whether they had informed of less availability of salt to the tribal areas because of inadequate number of racks; and

(c) the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) There has been heavy demand for loading of imported foodgrains and fertilizers since October, 2006. Despite this, western Railway has loaded 1485 wagons of salt in January & February, 2007 for Chhattisgarh as compared 847 wagons in the same period of last year. Loading of edible salt is done as per priority and on turn on the basis of a programme recommended by the Salt Commissioner.

Rail link from New Jalpaigudi to Gangtok

2072. SHRI O.T LEPCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal of Government to connect the rail link from NJP to Gangtok;

(b) if so, the details of survey conducted by Government, so far, in this regard and the details of outcome thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a survey had been conducted in 2000-01 for Sivok-Singtam new line *via* Giellikhola. The cost of construction

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of this 60 kms long line was assessed as Rs. 1099 crore with negative rate of return. Beyond singtam, the new line was not considered technically feasible due to steep gradient. The proposal was not taken up for implementation due to unremunerative nature, heavy throwforward and constraint of resources. Further based on demands survey for new line from sivok to Rangpo has been taken up.

Increasing the speed of trains

2073. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to increase the speed of some trains;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether the tracks are fit enough to bear the increased speed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Speeding up of passenger carrying trains is an ongoing process over Indian Railways.

(b) During the current financial year 2006-07, more than 657 mail/express trains have been speeded up.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Construction of overbridge in Orissa

†2074. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY; Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand for construction of an overbridge on similar level crossing under Dhankanal district and Boinda and Chaipal level crossings under Angul district in Orissa is pending with his Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) if not, whether his Ministry would fulfil this demand of people by collecting the information from the concerned department?

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